

**Northwest Arkansas Community College**  
Health Professions Division  
Physical Therapy Assistant Program

**Discipline Code**

PHTA

**Course Number**

2101

**Course Title**

Basic Principles of Physical Therapy

**Catalog Description**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the physical therapy profession. Topics included are the definition of physical therapy, history of physical therapy, role and responsibility of individuals practicing physical therapy, APTA, code of ethics, and laws governing the practice of physical therapy. The student will become familiar with locating and utilizing the physical therapy literature, and professional development concepts. Basic patient care skills include infection control, CPR, vital signs.

**Prerequisites**

Planned application to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program with completion of all PTA Program pre-requisites.

**Credit Hours**

1 credit hour

**Contact hours**

12.5 lecture contact hours

**Load hours**

1 load hour

**Semesters Offered**

Summer

**ACTS Equivalent**

None

**Grade Mode**

A-F

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Locate physical therapy literature
2. Relate basic information from the physical therapy literature
3. Locate physical therapy literature from the WEB and assess its credibility, validity, and reliability.
4. Apply basic time management principles to individual study habits
5. Recognize knowledge of infection control principles including universal precautions, standard precautions, medical asepsis, surgical asepsis, sterilization, disinfection, antisepsis, and isolation techniques.
6. Define the practice of physical therapy
7. Recognize the role of the American Physical Therapy Association
8. Identify the APTA support documents and recognize their content including: Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, Guide for Conduct of the Affiliate Member, Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy, and The Guide to Physical Therapy Practice
9. Recognize and identify the roles of the physical therapist and physical therapist assistant in the practice of physical therapy
11. Recognize the legal documents governing the practice of physical therapy
12. Identify normal pediatric and adult vital sign ranges for temperature, heart rate, respiration rate and blood pressure
13. Recognize factors affecting the vital signs
14. Recognize when interventions should not be provided as a result of a change in vital signs and appropriate actions to take in response to this change.
15. Recommend appropriate responses to emergency situations per American Heart Association and national Guidelines for First Aid Training in Occupational Settings.
16. Use APTA's evidence based practice resources online to determine an appropriate treatment plan for a given diagnosis.

### **General Education Outcomes Supported**

- Students develop higher order thinking skills.
- Students can employ a variety of sources to locate, evaluate, and use Information.
- Students gain greater awareness of cultural perspectives.
- Students can write clear, coherent, well-organized documents, substantially free of errors.
- Students develop effective oral communication skills.